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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
General YUN Song-min
May 1981

(U) NAME: General Yoon Sung Min (M-R: Yun Song-min, 1438/6134/2404), SN: 16040, Republic of Korea Army (ROKA).

(U) POSITION: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ministry of National Defense, since 15 May 1981. He succeeded General Yu Pyong-hyon.



(U) 1980

(C/NOFORN) SIGNIFICANCE: General Yoon was selected for the chairman position because of his contribution to stabilizing the political situation over the last year, his intelligence, experience and excellent leadership. He is a native of Cholla Namdo Province and he may have been selected in part to demonstrate that Cholla Province natives can achieve the highest military positions. General Yoon is not considered to be a member of the core group but he received command of the First ROK Army after the 12 December 1979 events which indicated he was considered trustworthy by President Chon Tu-hwan during his rise to power. General Yoon has an excellent military reputation; he is temperate in his treatment of subordinate officers and commands their respect, qualities valued in his new position. In the ROK Army, the position of chairman is less influential and less powerful than that of the Army Chief of Staff.

(C/NOFORN) POLITICS: General Yoon is very nationalistic. Although he is considered to be a supporter of President Chon Tu-hwan, he is not a member of the inner circle. Yoon has worked with American personnel and is easy to work with. He attended the US Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia in 1957. He returned to the United States in 1962 for an orientation tour and visited Taiwan in 1964. He enjoys discussing international politics.

(U) PERSONAL DATA: Yoon was born in Cholla Province on 15 October 1926. He is 5'7" tall (1.70 m), weighs 142 lbs (65 kg), and wears glasses. He is of high moral character and is moderate in the use of alcoholic beverages. He likes reading and table tennis. He speaks excellent Japanese and good English. He has received several awards and decorations.

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He is married and has two children. Yoon graduated from Seoul National University in 1949 where he studied National Literature. He was awarded the US Legion of Merit in 1970.

(U) CAREER:

- 1950-1951 - Graduated from the Korean Military Academy, pre-KMA Class 9, and commissioned Second Lieutenant, January 1950. Platoon Leader and later Executive Officer, 26th Regiment, Capital Division.
- 1951-1952 - Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 26th Regiment.
- 1954 - Attended ROKA Intelligence School.
- 1955-1956 - Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 60th Regiment, 20th Division, promoted to Major, April 1955.
- 1956 - Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 9th Regiment, 11th Division; promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, September 1956.
- 1957 - Attended US Army Infantry School.
- 1957-1958 - Assistant Chief of Staff, G4, 11th Division.
- 1958-1960 - Assistant Chief of Staff, G1, 6th Military District Command.
- 1960-1961 - Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, 6th Military District Command; promoted to Colonel, August 1961.
- 1961-1962 - Chief, Screening and Analysis, Comptroller of the Army Office.
- 1962-1964 - Student and later instructor, ROK National War College.
- 1964-1965 - Commanding Officer, 60th Regiment, 20th Division.
- 1965-1966 - Chief of Training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, HQ ROKA.

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- 1966-1967 - Aide-de-camp, 8th Division.
- 1967-1968 - G1, First ROK Army (FROKA).
- 1968-1969 - Chief of Staff, ROK Forces Vietnam.
- 1969-1971 - Commanding General, 5th Division, FROKA.
- 1971-1972 - Deputy Commanding General, I ROK Corps; promoted to Major General, January 1971.
- 1972-1975 - Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, HQ ROKA.
- 1975-1977 - Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, HQ ROKA.
- 1977-1979 - Commanding General, III ROK Corps; promoted to Lieutenant General, May 1977.
- 1979 - Vice Chief of Staff, ROKA, November-December 1979.
- 1979-1981 - Commanding General, FROKA. Promoted to General, 11 June 1980.
- 1981-Present - Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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